



CITY OF TEXARKANA TEXAS

Mayor's Message

After a wonderful holiday season, I look around our great city and am inspired to think what a blessing it is to call Texarkana “home”. We have everything a town our size needs and more: excellent, quality K-12 schools, as well as institutions of higher education, plenty of shopping, entertainment, fantastic restaurants, non-profits who absolutely astound me in fundraising and outreach, cooperation from both sides of Stateline, a solid economic base, development in many directions, and a true spirit of neighborhoods and community. It is a wonderful time to be in Texarkana. Happy New Year to all!
-Mayor Bob Bruggeman

2014: The Year of Community

The City of Texarkana, Texas City Manager and Administrative Team has chosen to celebrate 2014 as the “Year of Community”. This theme will be used in a public relations campaign for the city and each quarter will feature a different focus: community engagement, community development, the Texarkana spirit, and community responsibility. If you have a story idea or contribution, please contact the Public Information Office at lisa.thompson@txkusa.org or (903) 798-1743.

Parks Department adds After School Program to already impressive schedule

Under the direction of Parks and Recreation Director Robby Robertson, the Southwest Center will host a new after-school program for children ages 6-14. The program will kick off on January 13th and will be available every Monday through Friday from 3:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. Homework assistance will be the main focus of the program. However, critical thinking, brain development activities, sports, games, problem solving and art activities will also be offered. A Spring Break Escape is also planned for children ages 6-14. For \$30 per child activities and lunch will be provided from 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. each day March 10th-14th. Sign up is open January 27th-February 28th.

Also, the Parks Department has worked to add another community service by making childcare available during afternoon Zumba classes for free to children ages 6-14. Zumba Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00AM – 10:00AM and 6:00PM – 7:00PM. The morning classes are for Seniors and the evening classes are for ages 14 and up.

Texarkana Texas Fire Department is hiring

Applications are being accepted through Friday, January 10th for open positions at TTFD. Please direct everyone who might be interested to the city's website, <http://www.ci.texarkana.tx.us/>, where an employment flyer is located on the homepage.



Texarkana Texas Police Department launches new program

The neighborhood Area Coordinator Program is designed to enhance partnerships between the Police Department, citizens, and the business community to address crime and quality of life in Texarkana. Currently 3 officers are assigned to the program: Officer Cody Harris in the North Zone, Officer Karey Parker in the Central Zone, and Officer Jeff Estes in the South Zone. These officers routinely meet with other City departments to discuss a variety of issues that affect the quality of life in Texarkana. These discussions enable City resources to work in concert to address a variety of problems that affect citizens. Citizens who have concerns about an ongoing issue in their neighborhood are encouraged to call the Police Department at (903) 798-3118 and ask to speak to one of the Neighborhood Area Coordinators. We strive to find lasting solutions which will make every Texarkana neighborhood a safe and enjoyable place.

Engineering and Fire Administration will have new office space

Many changes will undoubtedly take place in 2014, but the one you might notice first will be the Texarkana Texas Fire Department Administration offices moving to the fourth floor of City Hall later this winter. This space was vacated in late 2013 when the Engineering Department moved to 919 Elm Street.

The City of Texarkana, Texas adds a Flickr account

As of November, the city now has a Facebook page and Twitter page that will help us better connect with the public, businesses, civic and community groups and beyond! We can be found on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/texarkanatexas> or Follow us on Twitter at @CityTxkTX. Did you know that the city also has a Flickr page? This account helps us store photos and make them available to the media/public for download. This will help with advertising projects that may concern the city, stock photos for media outlets, and of course, our employees personal use. Visit our flickr account at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/109152798@N08/>



Annual Shop with a Cop/Firefighter is a huge success

Texarkana Texas Police and Fire Departments teamed up with corporate sponsor, Target, and many surrounding emergency workers including Texas Department of Public Safety, Wake Village and Nash Fire and Police, the Bowie County Sheriff's Department and more to make dreams a reality for needy children today.

Over 100 children and families were given \$100 to shop for themselves, which made for over \$10,000 spent by happy and excited children. Purchases ranged from bicycles, to baby dolls, to the essentials of shoes and clothes. This was all made possible by donations from the community of Texarkana. Santa, his elves, and an enthusiastic group of volunteers from Target were on hand to assist shoppers as well.

■ Captain Joe Bunting helps a young shopper find just the right toy.



■ Captain Chuck Mitchell greets his tiny shopper, while organizer Sgt. Steve Shelley looks on.

